

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/775,615

Examiner

Scott A Rogers

Applicant(s)

INOUE, YOSHIAKI

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 05042001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.


SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to claims 1-3, 7-9, 13, and 15-28, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests in the claimed combinations, determining the candidate position where the determined low-frequency component intensity is weakest as the position of the threshold for the next gradation.

Referring to claims 4-6, 10-12, 14, and 15-28, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests in the claimed combinations, determining the candidate position where the determined low-frequency component intensity is strongest as the position of the threshold for the next gradation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Art Cited

Anderson (US 5555103 A) teaches the use of a two-dimensional analog of the Golden Mean to algebraically distribute the threshold values to yield a spatial dispersion of successive threshold value integers, so that clusters or clumps of threshold values of nearly the same value are avoided, and any half-tone image obtained by the mask is not contaminated with low-frequency, visually disturbing artifacts.

Wang et al (US 6717696 B1) determines the difference between an input image and the output image after halftoning, and subtracts the low-frequency part of the difference from the original input image, thereby reducing moire effects.

Loce et al (US 20040085588 A1) discloses formation of a halftone image using an anisotropic stochastic screen stored in memory, the anisotropic stochastic screen including a set of halftone threshold level signals, each threshold signal corresponding to a unique location in a halftone cell, and comparing a received pixel of the gray scale image with one of the halftone threshold signals from the memory and producing an output signal according to the comparison of the halftone threshold signal to said image signal. The anisotropic stochastic screen is comprised of a non-deterministic, non-white noise function which, when thresholded, produces an anisotropic dot pattern having a power spectrum characterized as having negligible low frequency components and a high-frequency region which has an absence of stronger dominant spikes.

US 20020186418 A1 and US 20020186417 A1 are publications of related patent applications later filed by the same inventor and assignee of this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott A Rogers whose telephone number is 703-305-4726. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday & Wednesday 6:00am-6:00pm and Tuesday & Thursday 6:00am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on 305-4863.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Customer Service at 703-306-0377. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

3/18/2005



SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER